

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 059476
ORIGIN SAB-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /048 R

DRAFTED BY S/AB:DLAZAR
APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:RRWYROUGH
-----171759Z 085918 /46
O 171729Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 059476

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. STORY BY JUAN WALTE ON UPI SPANISH WIRE, MARCH 16, REGARDING EXECUTIVE SESSION HEARINGS BEFORE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE YESTERDAY, STATES (INFORMAL TRANSLATION): BEGIN QUOTE. CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH THE HEARING HELD YESTERDAY BY THE COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES, QUOTED THE WORDS OF LINOWITZ SAYING TO THE CONGRESSMEN (QUOTE) WE ARE GOING TO BE THERE (IN THE PANAMA CANAL) IN PERPETUITY (UNQUOTE). SPANISH PHRASE USED WAS "A PERPETUIDAD".

2. SAME STORY QUOTES HILL SOURCES AS SAYING "... IT IS EVIDENT, ACCORDING TO THE TESTIMONY, THAT (THE NEGOTIATORS) CANNOT COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINE" OF PRESENTING A NEW TREATY TO CONGRESS THIS TERM.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 059476

3. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE ON ABOVE AND OTHER MATTERS PROVIDED TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FOR USE IN THURSDAY'S BRIEFING ON "IF ASKED" BASIS:
QUESTION. IN HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE YESTERDAY, DID AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ SAY THAT THE U.S. WAS GOING TO BE IN THE PANAMA CANAL "IN PERPETUITY"? ANSWER. THE HEARINGS TO WHICH YOU REFER

WERE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, THEREFORE WE CANNOT COMMENT ON WHAT WAS -- OR WAS NOT -- SAID. I CAN TELL YOU, HOWEVER, THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF DURATION AND POST-TREATY RIGHTS IS STILL A MATTER OF NEGOTIATION AND NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED. HOWEVER, AS WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE, THE BASIS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS REMAINS THE TACK-KISSINGER AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 7, 1974, AND THAT AGREEMENT SAYS THAT THE NEW CANAL TREATY WILL HAVE A FIXED TERMINATION DATE.

QUESTION. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORT THAT SOURCES ON THE HILL, BASED ON YESTERDAY'S TESTIMONY BY AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ, BELIEVE THAT A NEW TREATY CANNOT BE NEGOTIATED IN TIME TO BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS THIS YEAR? ANSWER. I OBVIOUSLY AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THE OPINIONS OR CONCLUSIONS OF SOMEONE ON THE HILL. I CAN SAY THAT THE NEGOTIATORS INTEND TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING THE NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

QUESTION. HAS AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ RESIGNED FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MARINE MIDLAND BANK? DID HE DO SO BECAUSE OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROBLEM? ANSWER. ALTHOUGH IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT THERE WAS NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST INVOLVED, AND THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISOR GAVE HIM A WRITTEN OPINION TO THAT EFFECT, AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ DECIDED TO RESIGN FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MARINE MIDLAND BANK IN ORDER TO AVOID EVEN THE SLIGHTEST SUGGESTION OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WHICH MIGHT IN ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 059476

RESPECT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE NEW TREATY WHEN PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL. HE SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION ON TUESDAY.

QUESTION. DID THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS MEET SECRETLY WITH THEIR PANAMANIAN COUNTERPARTS LAST WEEKEND? ANSWER. THERE WAS AN INFORMAL MEETING HERE LAST WEEKEND WITH SOME OF THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS, AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS. THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS HAPPENED TO HAVE BEEN IN MEXICO ANYWAY, AND ALL PARTIES CONSIDERED IT TO BE A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY TO GET TOGETHER.

-

4. WE WILL ADVISE FURTHER IF ANY OF THESE MATTERS ARE TAKEN UP AT TODAY'S BRIEFING.

VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE059476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLAZAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770092-0041
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770348/aaaabqdh.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 080a7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SAB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3074707
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE
TAGS: PFOR, PN
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/080a7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009